

**PROMOTOR(A) OR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER (CHW)  
TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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**AGENDA**

Wednesday, October 30, 2002, 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Austin, Texas  
Brown-Heatly Building, 4900 North Lamar Boulevard, Room 1530

11:00–11:10	Welcome and introductions	Edna Dougherty Presiding Officer
11:10–11:20	Approval of minutes	Edna Dougherty Presiding Officer
11:20–11:35	Update on Senate Bill 751 (77 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Session)	Health and Human Services Commission Representative
11:35–11:50	Committee business: Rule Planning Tool (25 TAC, Sections 146.1–146.10)	Cecilia Berrios, M.A. Community Health Promotion Specialist
11:50–12:05	Committee members' point of view	Maria Teresa de Llano Advisory Committee Member Brownsville
12:05–12:45	Break/lunch	Staff
12:45–2:00	Field Test Results for Promotor(a)/Community Health Worker Application for Certification	Edna Dougherty Presiding Officer
2:00–2:10	New business, next meeting dates for 2003 and agenda items for next meeting	Edna Dougherty Presiding Officer
2:10–2:25	Public comment	Edna Dougherty Presiding Officer
2:25–2:30	Adjourn	

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**MINUTES**

October 30, 2002

**Members Present:** Edna Dougherty, Maria Teresa de Llano, Oscar Muñoz, Lorenza Zuniga, Elizabeth Kelly, Graciela Camarena and Elaine Hernandez.

**Members Absent:** Paul Villas (Dr. Villas participated via conference call).

- I. Welcome and Introductions:** Edna Dougherty welcomed the committee and TDH staff.
- II. Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the September 17, 2002 meeting were approved as written. Maria Teresa de Llano moved for approval and Elizabeth Kelly seconded the motion.
- III. Committee Business: Rule Planning Tool (25 TAC, Sections 146.1–146.10):** Cecilia Berrios reviewed the Rule Planning Tool, including target dates for submitting rule amendments to the Board of Health. Ms. Berrios discussed possible items to be amended, which were submitted by Ms. Graciela Camarena, Subcommittee Chair of Rule Review Process. Ms. Berrios explained that the last action taken on this rule was on July 20, 2000 or the adoption date. This will represent the first attempt to amend the administrative rule. Committee members were asked to submit rule amendment recommendations to Ms. Camarena by November 15.
- IV. Committee Members' Point of View:** Maria Teresa de Llano, Promotora, Brownsville, presented slides of Project Vida Digna. Ms. De Llano started working as a promotora for Mano a Mano in 1997. After two years of experience, she began her work with Project Vida Digna, a colonia that was established in 1997. The slides depict the poor living conditions, lack of electricity nor potable water, among other challenges. She described the work of promotoras in the colonia, who work daily to improve living conditions for colonia residents.
- V. Field Test Results for Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker (CHW)**  
**Application for Certification:** Edli Colberg with Research and Forecasting with the Health and Human Services Commission facilitated field test results as reported by each committee member. Members conducted focus groups statewide during September and October 2002. Some 117 community health workers participated in testing the draft application for certification of CHWs. Stakeholder comments have helped refine and improve the application form. Committee members reported that CHWs were excited about the chance to share their views on the ease of completion of the application form and welcomed the opportunity to provide suggestions.

**VI. New Business, Next Meeting Dates for 2003 and Agenda Items for Next Meeting:**

Edna Dougherty distributed a letter sent to Commissioner Eduardo Sanchez from Senator Eliot Shapleigh regarding his frustrations with the advisory committee and slow progress on implementing the certification program. Andrea Varnell, Senator Shapleigh's Legislative Aide, explained that Senator Shapleigh is a strong advocate of the certification program and would like to see it rolled out as soon as possible. She noted that Senator Shapleigh does appreciate the work of the committee. Ms. Varnell stated that Senator Shapleigh would like to increase utilization of promotores(as) and include them as part of the state classification system. Mr. Oscar Muñoz maintained that promotor(a) representation at committee meetings was high and field test results included 117 CHWs across Texas who participated in field testing the application for certification. Therefore, a week-long conference was not necessary since the rollout date was already set for December 2002. Committee members are not reimbursed for travel expenses, but have agreed to volunteer their time and money to serve on the committee. Dr. Paul Villas noted that he was offended by the letter, which demonstrated lack of appreciation for the work of the committee. Ms. Varnell indicated that she would report back to Senator Shapleigh the good work of the committee. Edna Dougherty asked committee members if they would like to roll out the application packet at the December CHW Workshop in Dallas. The committee unanimously decided that it would be premature. The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, November 15 via conference call from 3–5 p.m.

**VII. Update on Senate Bill 751, 77<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session:** Brooke Burnside with the Health and Human Services Commission provided an update on Senate Bill 751. She explained that SB 751 calls for the Health and Human Services Commission to require health and human services agencies to use certified promotores(as) to the extent possible for health education and outreach to Medicaid clients. Last Spring HHSC conducted a survey on the use of promotores(as) by health and human services agencies. More than 50% of respondents are using promotores(as) primarily for health education on different health topics and service coordination. Thirty-nine percent of respondents noted that funding is the main challenge. The overall outcome was that respondents would like to increase utilization of promotores(as). Ms. Burnside mentioned that rules have been proposed and a public hearing is set for November 20, 9–10 a.m. for public comment.

**VIII. Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

**IX. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES BY PRESIDING OFFICER

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Edna Dougherty, Chair

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Date